

**March 31, 2015**

**CASE NUMBER: A2015-2**

**RE: the closure of Careywood Post Office, ID.**

My husband and I are small business owners, and fast delivery of mail is essential for our livelihood. We repair household appliances for a living, and get most of the parts for operating our business by mail. It is crucial that the parts are delivered fast, since customers need their appliances repaired ASAP. Closing our local Careywood Post Office would create lots of problems for our family AND business.

Our PO Box is being transferred to Athol, Kootenai County, ID, which is about 7.5 miles or 8 minutes drive **south** on Hwy 95. It appears that any mail addressed to our physical address will also arrive to the Athol Post office. Well, we live in Bonner County, and more often go **north** on Hwy 95. It means getting the mail will require 15 miles above what we currently drive to the Post Office. This is a financial burden as well as a safety concern to our family, especially during the harsh Idaho winter since I will be taking my two young kids on the road with me.

It would be an easy solution if we could have the mail delivered to our doorsteps, but unfortunately it's not how USPS works in the rural areas. Our only option is to have our mail box installed about 2 miles away on a main road we do not normally use to get home, which is both inconvenient and has huge security issues.

Opening a PO Box north of Careywood (either in Cocolalla or Sagle Post Offices) does not help either, since any mail addressed to our physical address (e.g. a new Driver's License) will end up in Athol; and we will have to drive between two different post offices trying to recover our mail.

From the economic point of view, the only winners from the decision to close Careywood Post Office will be UPS and FedEx, who deliver mail right to our doorsteps and who will get more business from Careywood residents, including our family.

The decision to close Careywood Post Office will hurt:

- USPS, who will see lower sales and lower customer loyalty.
- Residents of Careywood, who will spend more time and money getting to the Post Office, and who will see the values of their properties go down due to the lack of this basic amenity.
- Residents and visitors of Bonner and Kootenai Counties, who will see more traffic on Hwy 95.
- Taxpayers, who will be paying more for maintaining Hwy 95.
- All the world population, as more oil will be pumped and more CO2 emitted to the atmosphere, contributing to pollution and more rapid climate change. (We are talking about extra thousands of miles per household residing in Careywood per year.)

Please keep our Careywood Post Office open!

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